

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and favorable consideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

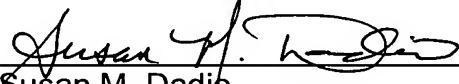
By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2, 6, 8, 10-12, and 15-17 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and/or to place such claims in better form for United States practice. Additionally, new claim 18 has been added. Support for such claim can be found throughout the originally-filed application, including at least original claim 14. No new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment, or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 836-6620 concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 8, 2004

By: 
Susan M. Dadio
Registration No. 40,373

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620